

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
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O O 121909Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8521
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS EYPU
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USLO SACLANT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
CINC LANT NORFOLK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08867

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: NATO LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM -- CONTINUED
RESERVATIONS BY NATIONS
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REFERENCE: STATE 119858 DTG 110029Z MAY 78 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS MADE A STRONG APPEAL
TO BOTH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO
LIFT ADDITIONAL GERMAN RESERVATIONS IN THE LTDP
DOCUMENT. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IS BRINGING OUR

DEMARCHE TO THE ATTENTION OF MINISTER APEL, WHO IS IN HAMBURG. DANNENBRING OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS PREPARED TO MAKE AN URGENT - AND WE BELIEVE VERY USEFUL - PRESENTATION TO GENSCHER. HOWEVER, HE REQUESTS FOR THIS PURPOSE A US GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WHICH WOULD (A) GIVE THE ORDER OF PRIORITY THE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE VARIOUS GERMAN RESERVATIONS; AND (B) PROVIDE A SUCCINCT USG RATIONALE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF EACH RESERVATION. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE US WITH SUCH A STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BROUGHT THE CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL TO THE ATTENTION OF BOTH GENERAL TANDECKI, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS (GENERAL ALTENBURG WAS NOT AVAILABLE), AND TO DR. DANNENBRING, HEAD OF NATO AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. WE LEFT WITH EACH A NON-PAPER CONTAINING THE ESSENCE OF REFTEL, AND WE STRONGLY URGED THAT THE FRG MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO LIFT RESERVATIONS IN THE TEXT OF THE LTDP DOCUMENT BEFORE THE DPC MEETING MAY 18-19. WE ALSO REQUESTED THAT TANDECKI AND DANNENBRING BRING OUR DEMARCHE URGENTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERS.

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2. TANDECKI SAID THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE A COMFORTABLE AMOUNT OF TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE DPC, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IN HIS VIEW, TO GO VERY FAR IN LIFTING EXISTING GERMAN RESERVATIONS. HE SAW AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FORMULATIONS "AGREE" AND "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE." THE FORMER MEANT A FIRM COMMITMENT WITH BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS SECURED BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. THE LATTER FORMULATION WAS USED IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE WAS A QUESTION AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF FUNDING AND/OR A QUESTION AS TO THE WISDOM OF THE PROPOSAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE FOOTNOTES (E.G. REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE POST OF ASG FOR LOGISTICS) REFLECTED LONG-STANDING GERMAN RESERVATIONS WHICH HE DOUBTED COULD BE CHANGED AT THE LAST MINUTE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, TANDECKI FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF TRYING TO LIFT AS MANY RESERVATIONS AS POSSIBLE IN THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT SOMETIMES A LAST-MINUTE, URGENT EFFORT COULD PRODUCE MORE THAN A RELAXED, WORK-A-DAY ONE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD URGENTLY BRING OUR DEMARCHE TO THE ATTENTION OF MINISTER APEL, WHO WAS ALREADY AT HIS HAMBURG HOME FOR

THE LONG WEEK-END. TANDECKI EMPHASIZED THAT, DESPITE THE "NO BLANK CHECKS" RATIONALE, A CHANGE OF "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE" TO "AGREE" WOULD AT LEAST POTENTIALLY INVOLVE MONEY. THEREFORE, HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT MINISTER APEL WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE ANY SUCH CHANGES PERSONALLY.

4. TANDECKI OBSERVED THAT, OVERALL, CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE LTDP DOCUMENT. BY HIS

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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COUNT, THERE WERE NO LONGER 101 RESERVATIONS BUT ABOUT 60.

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5. DR. DANNENBRING OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE TENDED TO VIEW THE ISSUES MORE FROM A POLITICAL THAN A MONEY POINT OF VIEW, AND WAS QUITE POSITIVE IN HIS ATTITUDE. HE SAID HE WAS WILLING TO TRY TO CONVINCE FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER THAT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER LIFTINGS OF GERMAN RESERVATIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION TO GENSCHER HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN AUTHORITATIVE US GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WHICH WOULD: (A) GIVE THE ORDER OF PRIORITY WHICH THE US ATTACHES TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE VARIOUS GERMAN RESERVATIONS; AND (B) PROVIDE A SUCCINCT US GOVERNMENT RATIONALE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF EACH RESERVATION. DANNENBRING REQUESTED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH SUCH A STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ASKED THAT WE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HIM AT HIS HOME ANYTIME THIS WEEKEND, AND HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE IN THE OFFICE FOR PART OF MONDAY, MAY 15, EVEN THOUGH IT IS A GERMAN HOLIDAY.

6. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT GENSCHER THINKS LESS IN MONEY TERMS THAN DOES APEL. THEREFORE, IT OCCURS TO US THAT IF DANNENBRING COULD MAKE A SUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION TO GENSCHER, THE LATTER MIGHT BE PROMPTED TO TRY TO CONVINCE APEL TO AGREE TO A LIFTING OF SOME OF THE KEY GERMAN RESERVATIONS. IN SHORT, DANNENBRING'S PRESENTATION COULD INDIRECTLY HAVE AN IMPORTANT POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE LTDP DOCUMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE US, VIA NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE, WITH THE STATEMENT WHICH DANNENBRING HAS REQUESTED.

STOESSEL
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